GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1695
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
NATIONAL POLICY FOR ALCOHOL CONTROL
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to launch a national policy for alcohol control in the country as reported in The Hindu dated 12 October, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received suggestions from experts in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the alcohol control policy is likely to be finalized and implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The policy with regard to sale and distribution of alcohol is within the purview of the State Governments.Therefore, the efforts made to contain the damage done by alcoholism vary from state to state.Apart from this,clinical care,building awareness,counseling and rehabil itation is made available through de-addiction centres and counseling centres run/ funded by the Government.

(c) to (e) The need to frame a national policy has been discussed with the experts and scientists. To make an effective national policy there is need to introduce legislative changes,identify national structures responsible,develop quality data system,to have Central Law on alcohol instead of state specific laws,uniform policy and taxation in all states and UT,increase minimum legal drinking from 18-21.Views of the State Government and UTs are to be obtained in this regard.